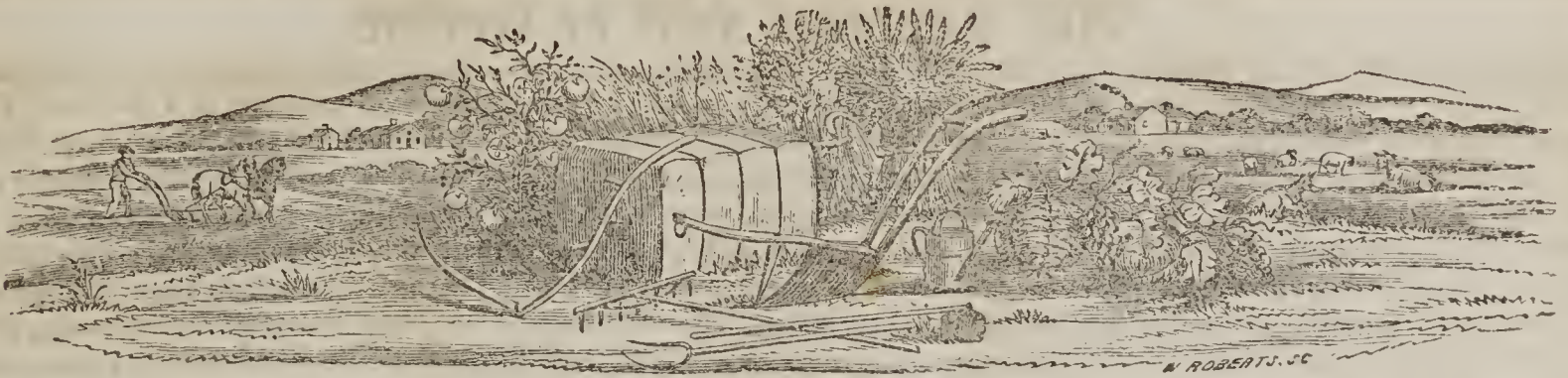


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# FARMER AND PLANTER.

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, MECHANICS, DOMESTIC AND RURAL ECONOMY.

VOL. III.

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## The Farmer and Planter

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### Thoughts by a Farmer.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—In presenting the following thoughts to the consideration of my brethren of the plow, my main object is to assist if possible in the improvement of the soil. Influenced by this consideration, and not with pretensions or conceits, I beg the indulgence of a few columns in your excellent journal. Agriculture is truly our nursing mother which, gives food and growth, wealth, moral health and character to our country—justly has it been termed the “parent of Arts;” from it all the absolute wants of life are bountifully supplied; although other avocations may offer greater prizes, yet if we compare the great advantages of the agriculturist with those of any other of the common occupations to which men devote themselves, we readily perceive that the farmer has no reason to mourn over his lot. No feeling is dearer to man than the consciousness of independance. And he who is engaged in agriculture truly enjoys this blessed boon. He is not dependent upon the smiles of a capricious public, but alone upon his Creator. Although his business is subject to many calamities, yet the seasons which injures one often benefits

his other crops (thus enforcing the great necessity of mixed husbandry); thus reviewing life, he becomes deeply impressed “in the conviction of, and reliance upon, the care of an all-ruling and all-bountiful Providence.” From the depths of his heart he is brought to exclaim “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.” Does it not become us, then, as wise cultivators of the soil, from whence springeth all our supplies, to make diligent and provident use of the light already given that we may enjoy more light? To do this, let us gather carefully the crumbs afforded by experience and science that nothing be lost. If experience discards science or science discards experience, the fabric must crumble and fall; to perpetuate and improve, they must work hand in hand—in union there is strength.

To establish a system of agriculture that would be adapted to all localities, I believe to be impossible, as varieties of soil in every section exists, yet the general principles of agriculture can be universally applied. To give a full description of the various methods used in different sections to renovate worn out soils, would require a larger space in your journal than any writer should be entitled to, at the same time wearying the patience of your readers and proving unprofitable. I shall therefore confine myself to that which alone can, in my humble opinion, benefit the agriculturist.

The first and most important step in the reclamation of worn out lands, is a complete and thorough draining of soils when too great a retention of moisture exists. The application of manures to wet lands is folly—indeed a full return for the manure applied cannot with any reason be expected. Such lands in no instance yields any thing like a fair crop

during a drought, indeed all crops suffer more severely on soils of this character during a drought than on lands thoroughly drained. During wet seasons no one but an “Ignoramus,” in truth, will look for any but a meagre crop. But if completely and thoroughly drained an increase of six to twelve fold may be reasonably expected, and in many instances an increase of twelve to twenty fold has been realized. It is unnecessary here I presume to give in full detail the various modes practised in different sections to accomplish this very important branch of duty—sufficient is the work, when every foot of tilled soil is freed from all excess of moisture both surface and subsoil—the task is incomplete until this is accomplished. This may be done frequently by 15 to 20 inch drains—again by 25 to 36 inch drains—in no instance leave the task until thorough drainage is effected. If under (or covered) drains can be made to answer the purpose, readily adopt them, if you have lasting material to form them, if not, discard them. Stone, poles, and brush are used for this purpose, and, where the expense is not too great, good brick is far preferable. In English agriculture “tile” is mostly used, but little has as yet been manufactured in the United States, therefore the farmers of the South cannot look to this material, even if the expense would justify its use with the mass of agriculturists.—“The soil being merely the reservoir of water, air and heat, and of decomposing organic matter, may be rendered either fertile by giving it the power of storing up and retaining their elements for use, in a much greater quantity than before—or sterile, by depriving it of the power of receiving, retaining, and transmitting them to plants.” Every operation that



tends to give or to facilitate the free ingress and egress of water, air, and heat to the plants, and the soils in which they grow, will facilitate their growth and maturity. This, in truth, involves the first principles of agriculture. Secondly, deep plowing is one of the most efficient agents in the "renovation of worn out soils"—discard it, and no permanent improvement can ever be effected—adopt it and it will ultimately repay an hundred fold. Yet it may, in some instances, where the land has been rendered extremely sterile by injudicious cropping, grazing, &c., give scanty returns for the first crop or so. I am aware that this is, in agriculture, a controverted point.—Many affirming with peculiar confidence that you "must not plough so deep as to turn up the hard pan of the clay or the white gravel"—but I assert with equal confidence, backed by experience and science, *that all soils, of whatever character, being thoroughly drained surface and subsoil of all excess of moisture, should be plowed deep, in order to produce to the best advantage*; if the soil should not be sufficiently deep to admit the use of the furrow plow from 8 to 10 inches, the subsoil plow, or one that will pulverize or loosen the earth to the depth of 12 to 24 inches, should be used. We would proclaim to the world of agriculturists that the free use of spade and subsoil plow, combined with a liberal use of the fertilizers to be had alone on the premises, will speedily reclaim millions of sterile acres. The earth that was before compact and comparatively impenetrable to air and water, are by this operation completely mellowed and rendered pervious to all gases, dews and rains from above, or fountains from below. "One of the chief arguments, however, in favor of subsoiling, is the ready admission of roots to a new store-house of the inorganic constituents of soils rendered soluble by the admission of the atmosphere, and then carried, not only into plants for their sustenance, but into the surface soil as excrementitious matter thrown off by the surface roots, and thus charging the surface soil with an improved quantity of the alkalies, soluble silicates, &c., &c." The security against drought from subsoiling cannot be doubted. To increase the capacity of the soil for the retention of moisture is a subject of lasting importance to the farmer. Deep plowing and thorough pulverization will certainly effect this object: thereby furnishing a reservoir of moisture for the roots of plants to feed upon,

when the surface soil is parched by long continued heat. We may further affirm that accurate pulverization and deep plowing are as yet very uncommon among tillers of the soil generally, although the warm and dry seasons loudly call for this practice. As the absolute quantity of moisture retained depends on the capacity of the soil for retaining, and the capacity of the soil for retaining depends on the depth of the plowing—by the same operation the roots of plants are better enabled to extend themselves in search of nourishment, contributing to their growth. By a constant habit of deep plowing, although the clay or gravel may be brought to light, be not alarmed—in a few years it is not to be seen, and you will have formed a soil corresponding with the depth you have plowed, "having the dark and productive qualities confined before to the surface soil." The man who plows deep, from 8 to 25 inches, using the furrow plow to incorporate the vegetable materials left on the surface of his fields, and the subsoil plow to crack up and pulverize the heretofore impenetrable subsoil, will under a judicious rotation of crops, one that will encourage the growth of the grasses, clover and weeds, enrich his farm without manure: Whilst he who skins the surface will find his most strenuous efforts unequal to the task." If I had a plow that would turn up the earth two-feet deep, I do not care what the subsoil may be, in five years the fertile soil would be two feet deep. I admit that generally a very stunted crop would be produced for the first two years. But I also assert, that the third or fourth and all subsequent crops will not only pay for all deficiencies of the first two or three crops—but an hundred fold interest." The subsoil plow is an excellent implement, it enables the farmer to avail himself of most of the advantages of deep plowing without any sacrifice of the first and second season's crops. The writer's experience and crops substantiates the opinions advanced on deep plowing.

Thirdly.—The soil having been drained of all excess of moisture, and the operation of deep plowing commenced, the soil is changed in character and visible signs of improvement is to be seen, yet to make the improvement more speedy and permanent something remains to be done. Lime, the basis of all and without which in some form no permanent improvement can be effected, must be applied liberally, if at hand, in small

doses, if obtained at a distance and for which "hard cash" has to be extracted like eye teeth from the farmer's pocket. When marl can be obtained, it is preferable, as it contains other substances truly valuable besides the percentage of lime. In every instance, not regarding the sterility of the soil, I would advise the application of from three to five hundred bushels per acre. If there is no vegetable matter on the soil, such as "broom-sedge," thickly set weeds, &c., it should be carted from the woodland; a heavy application of leaves or mould combined with marl—land planted in corn—seeding peas for wheat in growing corn—seeding clover with the wheat in the month of September, then giving two or three years fallow, will ensure the permanent improvement of any soil, provided a judicious rotation is afterwards adopted, and rigidly adhered to. Such as corn, wheat, one and two years at rest in clover, grasses or weeds as adopted on some farms in this and the adjoining counties of Sussex and Prince George. Farmers can well afford to pay 18 to 20 cents per bushel for good lime, delivered on or even in one mile of their farms. Always get the best (I am now paying \$1 25 cents per cask, R. R. freight 10 cents, delivered in one mile of my farm, and I believe I shall be amply remunerated for every dime thus laid out) that is to be obtained. I prefer the Washington, in casks that will slake from 7 to 8 bushels. It is undoubtedly a pure article. I believe it to be to the advantage of the farmer to discard the cheaper lime, being a "dirty mess," and purchase the best. From 25 to 50 bushels should be applied per acre—rather use 10 to 15 bushels to the acre than discard its use—giving said application at every rotation until 100 to 120 bushels has been applied. The improvement will be more gradual than if the larger quantity had have been used, yet its effects are "sure and certain." The soil in the mean time furnishing vegetable matter for the lime to act upon. After years of experience in marling, and some little in the use of lime, I would advise the surface application, whenever it can be adopted, on the grass sod, and on the wheat crop immediately after it is seeded, or during the winter when the ground is frozen, as the effects of a single winter's frosts and rains will more effectually dissolve it, thereby producing a more speedy action, benefiting the succeeding crops, as also the land itself, than is attainable by being plowed in.



Fourthly. This brings us to consider the subject of manures. First foreign, &c. "manufactured manures." On these the Southern Agriculturist cannot depend as in many instances the location, and facility of getting to market positively forbids their liberal use. Moreover the Southern farmer has placed around him abundant materials such as leaves, straw, scrapings, ditch-bank earth, mud, &c., which if liberally provided in our barn-yards, stables and hog-pens, will be rapidly converted into good manure by well fed, not half starved stock. Guano has effected great improvement in the yield of poor soils, but no permanent improvement so far as the writer's observation has extended. Like other active manures, it soon exhausts itself, disengaging an immense quantity of ammonia, unless gypsum is combined with it to arrest and fix this escaping ammonia. A heavy application from two to four hundred pounds, combined with one third or one half gypsum, if applied to the wheat crop will, on very poor soils, give from 15 to 30 bushels of wheat—securing a good stand of clover, to which plaster should be applied at the rate of 1 to 3 bushels per acre, immediately after harvesting the wheat, and lime early in the month of November.

Bone dust may be considered one of the most active and permanent manures to be had. Yet the supply is so limited that farmers find it difficult to obtain it. The many nostrums now manufactured North, are unworthy of notice. Being as abundant as those advertised in our daily papers for the restoration of the health of the human family, and as worthless. The Southern farmer must live upon his own resources—adopting the selfrenovating principle. Our own resources—what are they? First, the dung of our horses, cattle, hogs and sheep. These carefully husbanded and judiciously managed by composting them with straw, leaves, mud, ashes, ditch-bank earth, scrapings, &c., &c., will furnish a mine of wealth. Although farmers may differ as to the mode of applying manures, their effect and permanency, we must concur in the fact that, if we expect large returns for our labor, we must be liberal in the application of manure to the soil—liberal in seeds and in the cultivation of our crops.

Respectfully, your ob't serv't,

N. T. E. B.

Those who speak without reflection often remember their words with sorrow.

From the Laurensville Herald.  
*Too Many Horses and Mules.*

MR. EDITOR:—You request a number on some agricultural subject for your new year's issue. I wish I could present your readers with a new year treat that would be worth their attention and the time it will take in reading. Before I begin, let me wish them a happy new year, and many more of the same sort. I hope that they have had a merry Christmas—that they have had the creditor page of the printer's and merchant's ledger duly marked with "received in full," and that they will begin their new year's work with a light conscience and a hopeful heart. But I digress—my subject is *the number of horses and mules that may be kept on a plantation with profit*. Mr. Saunders, as mentioned by Capt. Byrd, worked 55 hands and kept 6 mules; and we have every reason to believe Mr. S. is a thriving farmer. Does not this case present matter for reflection? (By the way I hope Capt. B. will not forget that he promised us some remarks on this subject.) I do not know how I can better illustrate it than by supposing two cases, and I believe I could find two real cases that would illustrate it without a supposition. But I suppose two cases—if the coat fits any one, let him wear it. Farmer A. cultivates 10 acres of corn and five of cotton to the hand, he works three hands—therefore tends 30 acres in corn and 15 in cotton. His tract is 150 acres, 90 in cultivation, one half small grain, the other as above, the remainder in woods and old fields. He has four horses, three he thinks necessary, so that each hand may have a plow horse, and he keeps the fourth because he must have a full wagon team to haul in his crop and go to the market. His land is thin, and like all poor land, stands drought badly. He has a dry year, and makes 5 bushels of corn per acre, viz: his crop of corn, all told, is 150 bushels. Now every one knows that this is but little, if any, more than will keep 3 of his horses well. But farmer A has his crop of small grain—it won't all do, and he must sell his cotton to feed his family and horses every dry year, and even that will not do, and farmer A gets in debt.

Farmer B has a farm of the same size and quality as farmer A, but he chooses to take a very different course. As his land is thin he chooses to third it, and puts 30 acres in corn and cotton, 30 in small grain, and 30 he rests. He has the same number of hands, but keeps but two horses. He has a two horse wagon to haul in his crop and to carry it to market, and a buggy, which he says eats nothing, to convey his family to church. Now this is a small tend, and farmer B determines to do the thing right. He plows his land deep and thoroughly, and having much of his own time, he devotes it to making and applying manure and planting and working his crop in the most perfect manner. Being deeply plowed and nicely tended, the drought does not hurt his crop so much as A's, and being richer from manure and well

mixed in with the soil, more than doubles A, but say he makes on 15 acres 150 bushels of corn, and on the same quantity of land double as much cotton as A, with his small grain also better, he is able, with good economy, to support his family and stock from this crop, and his cotton is nearly so much clear gain.—But this is not all—by his plan of management his farm grows richer, crop larger every year, and in fact he promises, if he lives long; to become rich, whereas A's farm is getting worse, and he says he thinks he must sell off and go to the new countries, for nobody can make a living on such poor worn out land.

And now, Mr. Editor, is this a fiction like many of the tales that grace your pages, or is it not a faithful picture drawn from the life? Among many of the faults of our own system of farming, this is not one of the least, viz: We keep too many horses and mules. Now, in a politico-economical point of view, (excuse the hard word) what advantages would result to the State by mending, by doing away with this one fault in what I have called our system of farming! Make the calculation. I have not seen the return of the late census, but say there are 200,000 horses and mules in the State, which is probably not very far wrong, and probably only 150,000 is needed—we then have fifty thousand excess, which, at \$50 a head would make the startling sum of two million and a half of dollars paid to the western states, and for what? 50,000 horses fed from one farm, and for what? Our lands exhausted, worn out, by producing 2½ millions bushels of corn to feed 50,000 useless horses and mules, eating the substance that should support an industrious population, and driving them out from the borders of the State, and for what? again and again, echo says *for what!!* To conclude, Mr. Editor, I have no doubt I may bring a hornet's nest down upon my head for what is said above, hastily but sincerely. Be it so—if I am wrong I hope some body will set us right—the truth will benefit us all.

FRANKLIN.

#### GARDEN WORK FOR APRIL.

PREPARED FOR THE FARMER AND PLANTER.

By the first of this month, a full crop of the early bush beans should be planted if not done before. Those planted now will do as well as those planted in March, and be much less trouble, as the frost will be out of their way. Beets, carrots, parsnips and salsafy will do yet, if they have been neglected.

The early bunch squash will do well now, though it should have been planted previously. There are many varieties—I do not know which is the best. Manure liberally and work well—take off all deformed or inferior fruit—take the fruit from the vine as soon as fit for use and your vines will bear till frost. A few of the first should be saved for seed.

Plant okra, I prefer the long white.—A soil that will produce good cotton will grow good okra. Keep the fruit from this plant also, or gather as soon as fit for use—'tis said to be very fine—cut in



small pieces and dry for winter use.

Transplant the early kinds of cabbage. A few late ones should be planted, but recollect, if you want fine winter cabbage, from the middle of May to the middle of July is the time to transplant them.

Plant lined beans. Give them good poles to run on—they will bear all summer—matters not how hot and dry—they require a good light dry soil.

Transplant tomatoes. Give them at least two feet each way—give them a frame to rest on—plant the small red kind—kill the worms, should they get on them and look now and then for them.

Potatoe squash, kershaw and late crooked neck squash should not be overlooked—they should be planted about the last of this month or first of May. If you have not a large garden you will have to give them a place in the field—land that will grow good pumpkins will do them—plow deep and work well till the vines begin to run too much to work and they will take care of themselves.

Water-melons and musk-melons. As we have left the garden permit me to say one word on the subject of these delightful fruits. Many plans are named—digging holes in the ground and filling them up with manure, covering the ground, &c., these all may do well enough, but it takes more labor than most persons will give. But to the point—select a spot of rich sandy bottom land; if it has been enriched by the overflow of branches and washings of hill sides and not injured by too much clay on it, it will do, or any rich sandy fresh or bottom land will do; plough well. Bed your land about five feet wide and plant about the first of May, and you will make plenty of melons. I plant about five feet each way—the musk-melon will do about three feet each way. To raise good water-melons on high red stiff land requires more work than they are worth. I raised some last year weighing from twenty to thirty pounds. They were planted on 7th of May, on high, loose, sandy bottom land bedded for corn. They were plowed once and hoed twice.

Gourds. Whilst on the subject of vines, if you wish to raise gourds plant them so the vines will run—on the fence, a bush pile or any thing you wish, so that the gourds be far enough from the ground to give them good handles; you can give them any shape you wish by turning them while tender.

Cucumbers for pickling do best planted about the first to 15th of May; give them a place in the water-melon patch, they will do best there. Remember also that if you want vines to bear, do not suffer the fruit to remain too long on them; if for pickling, take them off as soon as large enough.

Strawberries, raspberries, currants and other garden fruit. If you have not all these it is because you will not but go to work and determine to have them. If you have them attend to them well—you will be thrily paid for all labor and expense during May.

Now is the season to plant, not to reap. More on this subject again. B.

From the Unionville Journal.  
An Appeal.

MR. EDITOR:—There are twenty-seven thousand eight hundred and eight farms in cultivation in South Carolina. The value of their products may be put down in round numbers, at seventeen millions of dollars. And still it is said of the owners of these 27,808 farms, the producers of these 17,000,000 of produce, that they are either too wise in their own conceit, too poor, or too stingy, to support one agricultural journal devoted exclusively to their interests, and published at one dollar per annum. Is it possible! Are we wiser than our neighbors? Do we understand the art of tilling the soil so well that we can learn nothing from others? Is it possible that one thousand out of the 27,808 farmers of this State, cannot be induced to step forward and make an effort to dispel this Cimmerian darkness, that hangs about our profession?

There are forty-six political and literary newspapers published in South Carolina!!! most of them well supported too. Well, we have no objection to that, if you desire it—but you should make every one of them subservient to your interests—they should feel for you, they should sympathise with you, and their columns should teem with agricultural matter. Is it so? What has politics done for you? How many millions has it produced for you? Bah! Has not the State just been carried through a most exciting canvass? for what—to enable the politicians to eat their own words—to say we didn't mean to do what we swore we would do—the people—the bone and sinew of the country, have declared that we must do nothing. It is time for us to quit politics till the people change, or change their rulers.—We have now king log on the throne—let us turn our attention to the plow.—Yes, the plow! for our northern brethren tell us jeeringly, “that your politicians have made your State a State of bombastic resolutions, while your thriftless farming has converted your fertile fields into desolate and deserted plantations.

It is hard to take this—but there is too much truth in it. According to the late census returns, we have made less progress than almost any southern State.—What is the reason? Ah what is it?—There is a screw loose somewhere. Are the people of South Carolina an agricultural people? Do we rely on it mainly for support? Do we believe there is any sense in educating the agricultural classes, and if so, should they be taught in such a way as to make them doctors, lawyers, politicians, or farmers? Does any one know that there is an agricultural journal published in Pendleton, that does not get patronage enough to pay for the printing? A journal that has been favorably spoken of by Prof. Mapes and other good judges, and above all, can boast of ten subscribers in the Queen City of the South, the Metropolis of South Carolina, and the abiding place of many of the richest planters in the State,

and six subscribers in Columbia, the capital of the State, and the heart of the planting interest. This speaks wonders, truly. Some people think that an agricultural paper is nonsense—that a man can't learn anything about farming by reading—that book farmers are all humbugs—well it may be so—other people are of a different opinion.

The average crop of wheat in New York at this time, does not exceed twelve bushels per acre—thirty years since it averaged thirty. The decline alarmed the farmer, and he set about investigating the cause. The Genesee Farmer is taken by 50,000 farmers, the American Agriculturist has a large circulation, so has the Albany Cultivator, the Working Farmer, and one or two other agricultural papers, all in New York. Professor Mapes has analysed over one hundred farms in New Jersey and New York, and advised new modes of culture, and has certificates in every case of an increase in the amount of profits to the farmer, more than one-third. Is this humbug? Our Yankee brethren are not apt to pay for such things, without they get something in return.

Must a man be doomed to plow on in the same old way, and with the same old plow, that his daddy did, because book-farming is called humbug? There is no other subject in the world, that we are aware of, wherein it is not admitted that a man may be improved by reading. Is it because men are born farmers—or the bigger the fool the better the farmer—or the better the luck? The Farmer and Planter, published in Pendleton, at \$1 per annum, lies sick of a fever—it is dying for want of tonics and nutritious diet—any body can prescribe, but who will give the physic? Help! help! as Kosuth says in his great speech—eight hundred and sixty-nine farmers in Union district—you have the means. Help! help!

A FARMER.

#### Fruits.

MESSRS. EDITORS—I am satisfied that if more attention was paid to the cultivation of fine fruit, it would add to the health of our country as well as to the luxuries of our tables. I have been experimenting for some time with the different kinds of fruit and have had brought on from New York, New Jersey, Kentucky and Tennessee, at different times, several varieties of apples, pears, peaches, nectarines, and plums, and have tried them all here on my soil, and I am p'd to believe that they will not do so well as trees raised here on the soil, or in the climate where they are to be set out. For several years I have only procured them for the sake of getting the wood to work from.

So far as my experiments go, the apple is rather a tender and short lived tree in this, climate and will not succeed as well as it does farther north, though with at-



tention it will do tolerably well, and with some of the summer varieties I have succeeded very well. It should be planted on level, dry land, or where the dirt is disposed to accumulate about the roots, and made to branch out low. The bodies should be kept clean and washed once or twice a year with a mixture of lime water or ley and soft soap, so as to keep them free from worms. They are subject to a dry rot under the bark near the ground, which many persons attribute to the heat of the sun, though I cannot satisfy my mind that that is the cause, I have not been able to find a preventive or sure remedy. Removing the diseased bark with the knife is the best I can do. In trimming, I trim out the limbs and let them grow as long as they will.

The pear is well adapted to this climate, and succeeds remarkably well.—Every variety, that I have, that has come into bearing, is much better than represented to be in the north. The tree is hardy and ought to be cultivated by every housekeeper, either in town or country. They should be planted like the apple in level land, or where the earth will accumulate about the roots.—They are disposed to throw out surface roots and if the earth is suffered to wash away, they will become bare and the tree suffer and decline. I trim them as I do the apple.

It would be unnecessary for me to say any thing in praise of the peach. It is a Southern fruit and no climate or soil is better adapted to it than ours. No horticulturist in New York or New Jersey with the same varieties can produce such fruit as we can, or so many crops from the same tree.

My plan is to raise my stocks in a nursery (the ground made rich), and bud them as soon as they are large enough, and the next winter set them on the field where they are to stand. I make the place where they are to stand rich, and top them off so as to make them limb out low, leave about three or four main limbs, and keep the bodies free from gum and the roots from worms. The worms attack the tree just at the surface of the ground, which you will discover by the gum around the roots, and the only way to remove them is with the knife. When the tree comes into bearing, I remove every spring the old wood from among the branches, and leave the young bearing twigs, and if they are too abundant, I shorten them in. If the limbs are suffered to grow too long they are apt to

break with a good crop of fruit.

You will find the soap and ley wash a good one for all of your trees. My method of using it is to take strong ley soap and mix in as much ley or lime water as will make it thin enough to use with a white-washing brush, and put it on as you would a coat of white-wash.

The curculeo I have found very bad on my nectarines and fine plums, but in nothing else. If you should be troubled with them, gather up the fruit as fast as it falls from the tree, and boil it or feed it to hogs, or destroy it in some way.

You will find high, dry ground much the best for peaches. The water should never stand about the roots or the earth accumulate much about them. Scrapings of the wood yard, leached ashes, or vegetable mould is the best manure for trees, and you will find that when your trees are well manured and in a growing condition, that the fruit will be the largest and best.

Yazoo.

Society Ridge, Miss. Jan., '52

#### Raising Corn.

BY E. M. DUNBAR, WARNER. N. H.

W. S. King, Esq.—I have read with interest the *Journal of Agriculture*, and I am satisfied it is a valuable paper for the farmer. However much farmers may say against book farming, every advancement in agriculture, whether in the cultivation of the soil or in the improvement of stock, has been brought about mainly by the scientific farmer: and I hail with delight the dawn of a brighter day:—when he who guides the plow will not only understand the nature of the soil which he exposes to the sun and air, but will also understand the right application of manure, and the crop best adapted to his different soils.

Many farmers suppose, or have supposed, that scientific farming means something beyond their comprehension, or at least applicable only to those who have the capital to indulge their fanciful notions relative to farming; but I am of a different opinion. If the farmer, let his pretensions be what they may as to scientific farming, so understands the nature of his soil as to plow properly, and manure judiciously, and so cultivates that his grounds yield what they are capable of producing, and yet improve in condition from year to year, this man is a scientific farmer, and *vice versa*.

I have been led to make the above remarks by hearing some men speak slightly of the practice of our most enterprising and successful farmers. For myself, I claim to be nothing more than a plain, practical, hard-working farmer; and in writing on the subject of corn raising, I shall only state what I have practiced with my own hands.

My land is naturally cold and wet, and is not so well adapted to corn as some other soils. I have broken up my sward

land both in the fall and spring; but for the crop, I prefer spring plowing to autumn, as it leaves the ground lighter and is much easier to work; but there is some advantage in fall plowing, as it is done when the team is in good condition, and generally is not so busy a season, and it also forwards so much of spring's work. There has been a great deal said and written with regard to deep and shallow plowing, and wide and narrow furrows; but for the corn crop, experience has taught me, that deep plowing, whether on moist or dry soils, is far preferable to shallow, as it gives a chance for the water to pass off in a wet season, and is more retentive of moisture in a dry.

For the last few years I have plowed my ground from eight to ten inches deep, and have used the plow which would the most completely invert the soil, without regard to the width of the furrow. I apply my manure on the furrow at the rate of forty-five or fifty cart loads to the acre, which consists principally of cattle, sheep, and old yard manure; and take pains to pulverize it fine, by digging it over with a heavy hoe; this is slow as well as back-aching work, but it pays well. There is a great difference in the quality of these three manures, and I apply them accordingly. The sheep manure, which is the most stimulating, I use on my coldest soil; while on my driest I apply my yard manure; as much depends on a right application, for a good crop. My manure is under cover during winter, and I am satisfied it is worth nearly double for being housed. I take much pains to spread the manure as evenly as possible, and harrow it in thoroughly with a heavy iron toothed harrow, first lengthwise and then crosswise the furrow, until the soil is well pulverized and the manure thoroughly incorporated with it.

This method of preparing the ground requires considerable time and labor, and those who are in the habit of pitching their manure into the cart in large lumps and throwing it over the ground at hazard, may think it lost labor, but for a good crop it is absolutely necessary.

I plant my corn (the eight rowed kind) in rows running each way—north and south, and east and west, at a distance of three add a half feet one way and three the other, for the purpose of a free admission of the sun and air; as I believe such circulation is just as necessary for the health and vigor of the crop, as it is for the well being of man or beast; it also saves a good deal of hard work by giving a chance to run the cultivator both ways. Some may object to planting two ways on account of extra labor, but this is slight, requiring only three hours more work to the acre, which I accomplish by dragging a heavy chain one way, and opening with the hoe the other. In cultivating the crop, I keep the ground as even as possible, and at the last hoeing leave but four stalks to the hill.

In harvesting, it is the practice with most farmers in this section, to take off the top stalks when the kernel begins to "check," and let the rest stand until the



last of October or the first of November; but I have long been of the opinion that this process is attended with a serious loss, believing the plant should remain in its natural state till harvest. It has been my practice for the last three or four years, to let my corn stand with the tops on until there was danger of frost, and then cut it close to the ground and stook it in the field, and let it remain until the stalk is cured. It requires about two and a half days' work to stook an acre of stout corn. I will give my method:—I have a piece of joist some five feet in length, with two pins near the top end, running through on each side about eight inches, at right angles, and sharpened at the other end. After the corn is cut down, this is set in the ground for a support, while setting up the corn around it in handfuls sufficient for a stook, when it is withdrawn and the top secured by tying around two or three bands in the usual way. It will be perceived, by stooking in this way, there will be a vacancy in the centre for the air to circulate and prevent mould. By this method the corn is better, the fodder worth twice as much, and requires less labor to secure the crop. I ought to say, perhaps, that I have practiced as above the present year only in part, on account of the field mice taking up their residence in the stooks.

Some have supposed the corn would weigh more by harvesting in the usual way, than it would by cutting up when somewhat green and stooking. To such I would say, I put up a few stooks Sept. 24th, which remained in the field until I harvested the other, (Oct. 25th,) and to satisfy myself, I weighed a bushel of ears of each, and found there was a difference of two pounds in favor of that which was stoked. My crop ranges from fifty to seventy-five bushels to the acre, of shelled corn.

Now, Mr. Editor, here is a lump of the ore from my diggings, and if there is enough of the pure metal in it to pay for refining, I shall try again, hoping to strike a richer vein.

The vein you have struck is a rich one, so dig away, brother Dunbar; ply pickaxe and spade; "the cradle" you rock is not a Californian one, if we rightly remember, though it may hold richer treasures than gold dust before you pile it a way among the old lumber in the garret.

Those farmers like Mr. Dunbar, are the very ones whom we have in our mind's eye, when we speak of *scientific farmers*. It no more requires patent leather boots, a quizzing glass, and a capital of a hundred thousand dollars, with a book under each arm and a mouthful of hard words, to make a scientific farmer, than it is imperative to wear a week's growth of beard, a dirty shirt, and boots always redolent of the barn-yard, to prove one a practical farmer.

There are two classes of scientific farmers who are useful and respected, each in their sphere. One is the capitalist, who was born perhaps on a farm, and spent there the happy days of youth, and

who returns to the country to repose from the cares of more exhausting business.—With judgment and generosity he procures the best implements that are manufactured, he tries experiments that appear plausible, he introduces good stock, and enables his neighbors to dip into "blood" a little. This man, whether his implements or his experiments succeed or fail, is a benefactor to the cause; and for obvious reasons.

The other, and more useful class of scientific farmers, are like Mr. Dunbar and others in his and many other neighborhoods that we could name. They have been farmers since they were breeched, and with a full knowledge of all the executive duties of their position, they put into practice all those improvements, which their education in the field, the school room and the chimney corner, assures them to be *improvements*. The implements that to their experienced eyes appear worthy of a trial, are introduced; a fine Devon bull graces their pastures, and keeps good the number and quality of their milkers. At this season of the year their barns, their sheds, their tool house, their cellars, everything under their care will bear inspection. They have done their duty by themselves and their families; and now we see them sitting down to do their duty by their fellow farmers, by communicating their experience through the columns of the *Journal of Agriculture*.

#### Plow Deep and Plant Shallow.

MR. EDITOR:—In looking about me this year, I have noticed a great number of farmers in this part of the country breaking up their lands about ten inches deep, and planting their corn about as deep—as is the old adage with us; "Plow deep and plant deep—but plant deep anyhow." Now, sir, do you not know that this is a mistake? If you don't, I know that it is as broad a mistake as was ever made by intelligent farmers, because I have tried it and I know it by experience. My rule is to plow deep, and plant shallow, (contrary to the recommendation of several "agricultural papers,") and I will give you my reason for so doing. I plow deep (subsoil from fifteen to twenty inches) so as to get as much clay on top as possible, which will, through a chemical process, turn to soil; and to turn the soil under the clay, in which I intend for the roots of the corn to grow. I have the rows in which I intend planting run off about four inches deep; by this means I secure the richest soil for my corn to take root in; and by plowing deep and planting shallow, I have a deep loose soil, and will always secure a moisture to the roots of corn.—The question might be asked, why it is that he don't plant his corn deep? It is this: suppose I break my land fifteen

inches deep and plant my corn twelve; I would only have three inches of loose dirt for my corn to grow in, and more than probable that would be clay, while the roots of corn would have little or no advantage from the soil, it must be to all, that will look at the reason of the ease, very evident that their doubts about this, (if they question it at all,) to try the experiment next year, and inform you of the result.—*Cor. Southern Cultivator.*

#### The Onion.

This we have found always most easily raised of good size, and an abundant yield to the land. We raise what I take to be the Dutch or Flanders onion. We pursue this plan to obtain the seed. Set out the seed onions early in March, and cultivate only enough to keep the weeds and grass under until the buttons are developed. Then permit the weeds and grass to grow at their will, so as to protect the bulb from the cold of winter. In the spring weed them well, and top-dress with hen-house manure, and cultivate as above. In this way, it will hardly ever be necessary to set out seed onions again. At least we have gathered buttons this season, large and fine, from onions set out seven years ago. Here it may be well to say how we prepare our hen-house manure. The house is well littered, say six inches deep, once in two weeks during the winter, with straw.—then a liberal sprinkle of marl is applied, and frequently ashes. In two weeks it will be found to be well trampled and *be-fouled*, when it is scraped up, thus mixing the ingredients, which are then deposited in the garden in a heap ready for use in the spring. Pure hen dung should be applied cautiously, like guano; it is domestic guano.

The onion being a gross feeder, you should, when growing the bulb, manure the land well with good stable manure, spaded in well, and chopped in fine, using no rake on stiff land, such as ours is. Lay off the rows fourteen inches apart, and plant the buttons five inches apart in the row. Let the rows be very shallow, and cover them very lightly. Deep covering is very injurious. Work thoroughly the first time, and top-dress around each button, but not too near, with the hen manure. Then cultivate as may be necessary, to keep the weeds and grass under, and also to keep the ground well stirred. But let the cultivation be as superficial as possible. We plant the last of February or the first of March, though the best and finest onions we ev-



er raised were planted the last of September. We have tried this experiment but once. We raise the white or silver onion, pretty much in the same way for pickles.—*Southern Planter.*

#### A Word or two about Dogs.

"A bonnie Terrier that, sir, and a fell child at the vermin, I warrant him—that is, if he's been weel entered, for it a' lies in that." "Really, sir," said Brown, "his education has been somewhat neglected, and his chief property is being a good companion." "Aye, sir? that's a pity, begging your pardon, it's a great pity that—beast or body, education should aye be minded."—GUY MAUNER.

An honest, well behaved dog, "weel entered," as the Scotchman said, deserves to be treated with respect. We are willing to give him the hand of fellowship—albeit he may have no

"locked, lettered, braw brass collar, Which shewed him the gentleman and scholar—but one of your "ranting roaming billies" who is ever attending to every body's business better than his own, prying into your poultry yard, nosing about your smoke-house, and now and then sneaking into your sheep-fold, picking off the wee pets and wooling the whole flock—we have no patience with. We often wonder if the people think what a tax dogs are upon our good temper as well as upon our income.

Let us figure a moment—there are 52,642 families in South Carolina, that, dwell in houses—it will certainly be a safe calculation to put one dog to each house—and the 295 that don't live in houses, we will bet on having three dogs apiece, but we won't count them—there are, then, 52,642 dogs in South Carolina. How much will a dog eat? remember, now, you are to count the stealings—for if you don't feed him, he'll make it out of somebody. It takes as much to feed a decent, gentleman-like dog, as it does a negro—and takes as much more to feed an unmannerly cur. But we will be moderate—we will say that every dog consumes 5 bushels meal per annum—this will sum up the consumption to 263,210 bushels—yes, two hundred and sixty-three thousand, two hundred and ten bushels of corn. Corn is worth almost any where in South Carolina one dollar per bushel=\$263,210.—Look at that, ye dog fanciers—ye owners of "mongrel puppy, whelp, and hound, and cur of low degree." How many poor people would this feed and clothe?"—"Poor people! bless my soul, Broomsedge," says a friend at our elbow, "what are you talking about, the poor people own two dogs to any-body-else's one. Did you ever see any man too poor to own a dog?"—Poor "old Horse!" he used to say that he thought his vote in the Virginia legislature in favor of the Virginia and Kentucky resolutions of '98, was enough to have secured his popularity forever, and yet he afterwards killed himself dead with the people, by voting for a tax on dogs.—Talk of dog laws—pshaw! you may as well put auber to a mile-stone—the representatives of the people know too well the strength of the dog vote to run any such risk. There is only one

dog law which we can pronounce efficient—whenever a farmer spies a suspicious fellow prowling about his premises, give him a dose of patent gun wadding—it's good, very good. We do as we would be done by—if our dog will not stay at home, he is of no use to us—if he troubles our neighbor it is his own fault—he has a remedy.

BROOMSEDGE.

*Big Branch, Feb. 15, '52.*

From the Western Horticultural Review.

#### Strawberries—A Banter.

DR. WARDER:—I discover by an article in the Patent Office Report of the present year, that it is admitted east, that "Strawberries are of two kinds, Staminate and Pistillate." That "the latter cannot be relied on for good crops, without the fertilizing presence of the former. But with their presence they are usually the best." He says "the best Staminate sorts, are the Large Early Scarlet and Boston Pine. The best Pistillates are Burr's New Pine, Hovey's Seedling, old or Cincinnati Hudson, and in some localities the Black Prince."—Wonderfully accurate. The Early Scarlet, and Boston Pine are both Hermaphrodite, and therefore bear more or less perfect fruit. The writer says, "Pistillates can not be relied on for good crops without fertilizing." I will give \$50 for a root of either of the Pistillates he names, or any other, that will in one year in one hundred, produce one perfect fruit from twenty blossoms without fertilizing. I have never seen one. There are four distinct plants produced from seed, and they never change their character.

*First, Staminate.* Never bear a perfect fruit.

*Second, Pistillate.* Never bear a perfect fruit without impregnation.

*Third, Hermaphrodite.* Always bear more or less perfect fruit and more or less defective ones. These, from last year's experience, I discover, require insects to carry the Farina, to secure the best crop they can produce.

*Fourth, A plant bearing Staminate, Pistillate, and Hermaphrodite blossoms.* Plants of this class are very rare.—Schneik's Garden of Eden Seedling, is in part, of this character, and for three years has produced a full crop of large, perfect fruit, and of fine quality. It is the only one which I have seen that all its blossoms bear perfect fruit.

I have not yet seen one these plants a blossom purely Staminate. All are purely Pistillate, or Hermaphrodite, and perfect in both organs. N. LONGWORTH.

#### Broomsedge.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—In your last issue I noticed a call for information in regard to the management of sedge land. The improvement or reclamation of this land has received a good portion of my time and attention for some three or four years. In this portion of Virginia, where the lands are poor, we find them covered with broomsedge or poverty grass, and running briars. When covered with the former, we consider them readily improved, of the latter always a hard case to manage. My system of reclaiming worn-out lands covered with sedge is as follows. The land is checked off for marling in the fall: the marl is then hauled to the land and a heap of five bushels deposited in each square—giving to each acre, if well set in sedge, from three hundred to four hundred bushels of marl. The land is then plowed up by a good two horse plow, to the depth (not regarding the poverty of the soil) of 7 or 8 inches, taking care to lift the plow around the heaps of marl. As soon as the land is fallowed, the marl is regularly spread over the surface, permitted to remain in this situation until March, when (if I have time) it is well harrowed—it is then laid off and planted in corn. My object in applying marl in this way, is to keep it near the surface that it may be subject to the influence of the atmosphere, frosts, &c. I have never had it fail to act well on the first crop when thus applied. To carry out this improvement, I reserve all the peas I can spare and seed them among the corn the last working. These are turned in, in September or October, and the land seeded down in wheat and clover, if I can seed by the 10th of October, if not, the clover seed are sown in February following. Now permit the land to have two years rest, and my word for it (stiff or light soil), you will find at the end of two years your field not only improved, but in fine heart, capable of producing remunerating crops of corn, wheat &c. In regard to the clover, keep all stock from it for the first year, and the second year you will be able to cut a fine crop of hay from every acre, especially if the soil is stiff—on light soils it is more difficult to secure a stand of clover, yet, as a means of securing a stand of clover on light soils, seed in September, and apply one bushel of plaster per acre in February or March. The clover will not only be benefited thereby, but it will add materially to the yield of the wheat crop. I differ with you, Messrs. Editors, in regard to "burning off the sedge on light soils." I would thank no man to carry fire into a sedge field of mine, let the land be ever so light, that is, if I intended to carry out the system of improvement here detailed. I do not know how it would answer under any other circumstances. But the question naturally arises before the enquiring mind: What would be the cost of this improvement? Suppose the land, now poor to be worth \$2 per acre. Cost of marling (one mile carriage) \$6 per acre; clover seed, one gallon per acre, 75 cents; one bushel of Plaster, 55 cents; two years rent of land, when at rest, \$4;—the rent is put down at the probable rent before improvement—total



cost \$11.30. Suppose the land before the application of marl would yield 8 bushels of corn at 60 cents, \$4.80;—after the application *only* 10 bushels the first year \$6; yield of wheat before the application of marl and return of pea fallow, five bushels, \$5; after the application, &c., eight bushels, \$8. The cost of improvement \$11.30: increase of crops, worth \$4.20: actual cost of improvement \$7.10. Value of land after improvement \$10. The cost of peas and worth of peas and worth of clover crop, I neglected to take into the above account, which your readers can figure out at their leisure.

The above is no imaginary case—the writer can show lands that before the improvement generally gave the above yield of corn (never being *wise enough* to risk the wheat crop on such lands) that now gives a return of 30 to 35 bushels of corn and 10 to 15 bushels of wheat—the lands are still improving. Wherever I have carried out the above system on moderately stiff soils I have never failed of being amply remunerated and gratified, by seeing such lands rapidly coming to a state of fertility.

If the above will benefit you or your readers, my object will be accomplished.

The Present.—I am now engaged in applying litter and mould gathered from the forest with hilling hoes (from lands which I never expect to bring into cultivation), to my corn shift for this year. This is evenly spread, and turned in by a large two-horse plow running from 7 to 8 inches deep, followed by a subsoil plow, drawn by two stout horses, running from 10 to 12 inches deep—average depth of stirred land from 16 to 20 inches. It is my intention to treat my entire corn shift in this way; to accomplish which it will take from 12 to 15 days—the land is poor and light, fine clay subsoil about 6 or 7 inches below the surface. It is my purpose to apply lime to the surface this spring and next fall—sow peas last working of the corn—seed down in wheat and clover in September and October, applying at the same time from 150 to 200 lbs. of guano per acre. I have told enough, so I will bid you adieu.

Your ob't servant. THOS. E. BLOUNT.  
Burlough, Sussex Co., Va., Feb., '51.

#### Thoughts for Farmers.

At or before this season of the year, it is usual for intelligent and successful farmers to lay out their plans and commence the preparation of their lands for a new crop of oats, corn, cotton, &c.—In this region of country the last two years, with here and there an exception, have been highly unpropitious to the growth of average crops, particularly of the two former, and had not an abundant wheat harvest come to our relief, the country would have had a foretaste of a temporary famine. As it is, it will require the exercise of the most rigid economy upon the part of all concerned, for the next six months, to enable the pro-

vision crop of last year to hold out until the new one is laid by or gathered.

We will venture the assertion, that within the recollection of the "oldest inhabitant," there never was a more universal failure, at the South, of the oat crop, than the one witnessed last year, nor a more magnificent display of nubbins and small potatoes. Fortunately for themselves, if not for their owners, a goodly number of neat cattle took a near cut out of trouble by surfeiting themselves upon blasted or smut corn in the fall, and thus escaped the more tardy and mortifying process of gradual starvation. Enough, however, survive, and barnless and fodderless, wander forth, seeking something to devour, to excite our commiseration and elicit our charities; and we would suggest to the worthy officers and members of the different Agricultural Associations in Georgia, that fairs be held during the present year for their especial benefit.

But our primary object in penning this article is, to urge upon our agricultural friends, the propriety of planting less cotton, and more of everything which conduces to the sustenance of man and beast. The true and only safe policy of the farmer or planter steadily to pursue is, to plant for an abundant supply of the necessities of life first and foremost, and then if he has surplus lands and labor, devote them to the culture of cotton.—Were the whole South thus to reverse the order of things and make the provision crop the primary one, and the cotton the secondary one, we should at once see a more prosperous and encouraging state of things. The price of the great staple without the artificial stimulants of cotton conventions would naturally and steadily appreciate, and the whole country become more independent and prosperous. We say then to our agricultural friends, in preparing your ground for another crop, don't forget the crib, the granary, and the smoke house. We can live without cotton; bread and meat we must have.—*Rome Courier.*

REMARKS.—If the *Rome Courier* meets the eyes of many of the farmers and planters in his and the adjoining counties of Georgia, the editor will be doing them a favor no doubt if he will caution them against too strong faith in the capacity of their lands to produce. There are other causes operating in his section about as fatal, in our humble opinion, to the production of good crops, and the preservation of their now valuable lands, as have been the droughts for the last two years. We mean the practice that too generally prevails of crowding every thing on the

land, till there are two or three times as many plants attempted to be grown as the land is capable of perfecting. We recollect pointing this out to a friend whilst passing in the car from Kingston to Rome, in December past, and remarked to him, that the owners of the land through which we passed, with but few exceptions, must have strong faith in its productive power. Another fault is the scratching, half plowing, practice that prevails to a considerable extent, with no hill-side ditches to protect the land from washing. Many fields, but recently cleared, are already *blushing* for the bad management of the owners in not applying these powerful preventives of both drought and washing, deep plowing and hill-side ditching.

We were proud to observe wherever we travelled, as on this route, the best managed farms were by those who are taking the *FARMER AND PLANTER*. We are not vain enough, however, to suppose that our paper has made them better farmers than their neighbors, but not doubting they have derived much benefit from it, it is an additional proof of the generally admitted fact, that the best farmers and planters of our country, and of all other countries, are such as subscribe for and read agricultural papers. Indeed good farmers, whether they have ever taken an agricultural paper or not, are less apt to set up the foolish objections to "book farming" than the most indifferent ones, who pretend to think they know more than every body else, and generally know less.

We trust that the very excellent and appropriate remarks by the editor of the *Courier* have been read by many that never see an agricultural paper—such as have the government so much at heart, that they have not time or inclination to study their own legitimate profession, and that they may profit by his wise suggestions.

Eds. F. & P.

#### Hedges.

As hedging is becoming a matter of prime necessity, not only on the prairies north of the Ohio and west of the Mississippi, but also in Kentucky and other states that were once heavily timbered, and from which the forests are fast disappearing, it is becoming a subject of interest to know every thing that may facilitate or retard the production of hedges.

My experience on the subject is limited, and confined entirely to the Osage Orange, which, all seem to agree, is the only plant, adapted to our soil and climate, for that purpose; and indeed it seems to be considered as better suited for this object, in every respect, than any plant known in Europe or America.

I have read every thing, that has fallen in my way, on the subject, in regard to the management and preparation of the seed, cultivation, &c. And since I have had a little experience on the subject,



have come to the conclusion that most of those who have written for the instruction of others were mere novices in the business, and have so mystified the subject as to deter many from making the attempt.

My own experience has proven to me that there is no more skill necessary in sowing the seed and cultivating the plant than there is in the culture of corn. The only thing to be guarded against, is a late frost in the spring, which may kill the plant if not protected. I have planted in November with good success, and I would by no means sow later than the 15th of April; there is great danger of the plants being killed by drought while very young. But the greatest difficulty yet experienced in the business, is the failure of the seed to germinate, which has been the source of much vexatious disappointment, and loss of money and labor. The secret I think is easily explained. I am informed, by a lady from Texas, that most of the seed collected there is separated from the apple by throwing them into kettles and boiling them to soften the skin and dissolve the glutinous pulp in which the seed is enveloped, or otherwise, they may be thrown in heaps and left to rot, in which case fermentation takes place, which is equally destructive to the vitality of the seed, and hence the failures so much complained of.

I know not by what means honest men separate the seed from the pulp in the climate of Texas, but my own experience proves to me that there must be some method adopted to soften the fruit, or the operation of extracting the seed will be tedious in the extreme, and as that climate is not cold enough to freeze the fruit, the processes just referred to, have been adopted to facilitate the collection of the seed, without regard to honesty.

I have been planting seed for the last four years. Twice I purchased the seed at Louisville, and planted in good soil, with the utmost care, about the 15th of April, and in both cases the result was a total failure; and twice I procured the fruit from a tree growing in Dr. Parker's house yard, near Shelbyville, with which I have been entirely successful. The method I pursue in extracting the seed is to expose the fruit to the frost until by freezing and thawing it becomes quite soft, then with a sharp knife pare off the rind, throw them into warm water and squeeze out the seed with the hand.

I would advise those who wish to pur-

chase seed, to procure the fruit, put up in barrels, as it comes from the tree. It will be much cheaper, and we shall hear of no more failures.

The most convenient method of planting and cultivating the first season, is to form a bed with the plow, about twelve feet wide, in rich, light soil, pulverize and rake it smooth, then with the corner of the hoe, or some other suitable instrument, make drills about one inch deep, twelve or fifteen inches apart, then sow the seed tolerably thick; and if the soil is at all adhesive, so as to form a crust on the surface, procure some rich, loose loam from the woods, or elsewhere, and cover the seed about one inch or more.—In transplanting, it is not desirable or advantageous to have large plants. Small plants can be set with much greater facility, and will make a rapid growth the same season. I have planted with a dibble, as you would cabbages, and now, after nearly two season's growth, they are larger than those that were from two to four feet high. SAM'L VENABLE.

—*Western Horticultural Review*,

#### Pumpkins---Squashes.

J. M. IVES, Esq.:—Dear Sir, Mr. Proctor, of Danvers, has favored me with your letter concerning the marrow squash first brought into notice by yourself in 1835, and now acknowledged to be the best variety in cultivation. In the course of a correspondence with Mr. Proctor, I mentioned my desire to obtain an authentic specimen of the Valparaso squash, introduced by Com. Porter, between 30 and 40 years ago. I wished to compare it with one grown in my garden this summer. Since then, however, I have been assured by several persons, professing to know the true Porter Valparaso squash, that my squash was the same, as indeed I had supposed it was from the recollection I retained of the former, as seen some 15 or 20 years ago. Accident led me to look into the history of plants of this kind during the last two years. A notion prevailed among botanists that they all came from the East, Asia, and India being indicated in modern botanical works as their native region. A laborious investigation of ancient Greek and Latin authors, an investigation of the accounts given by Arabian physicians, and by Rabbinical writers, together with early voyages and travels in the East,—have satisfied me that what we call pumpkins and squashes were unknown in Europe until after the discovery of

America; that the West Indies, Florida, Mexico, Brazil, Peru, and Chili, all furnish various kinds, which were introduced into Europe by the first discoverers and settlers of the new world; that these were soon spread by commerce throughout Europe, and even to the East, by Spanish, Portuguese, and Dutch navigators. The pumpkin had already reached England, and was cultivated before the English got new varieties of fruits of this kind from Virginia and New England, the Dutch from New York, the Swedes from New Jersey and Delaware, and the French from Canada.

Whenever these fruits were carried, whether to England, continental Europe, Greece, the East Indies, even to Amboyna, the Philippine Islands, and China, they retained the names imposed on them in the languages of those who introduced them. Hence in the East Indies, their names alone, (not known in the vernacular of the country) show them to have been of foreign origin. According to their shape and color, pumpkins and squashes were likened to gourds (calabashes) melons, or cucumbers, and subsequently took the same names as these fruits bore in the European countries where they were cultivated. Thus the Spaniards had only one name both for calabash and pumpkin, namely, calabasa. In the greater part of Europe, however, they took the same name as has been applied to the muskmelon—pepone in Greek, pepone in Italian, pompon in French, pumpor in Swedish, and pompoen in Dutch, whence came pompon and finally pumpkin in English. The latter knew nothing of our name *squash*, before the settlement of New England.—The earliest English writer who used it as we do was Robert Boyle, who died in 1691. Before his day, pumpkins and squashes were called by their former name only. The result of the historical investigation was, that these fruits were not of Asiatic, but exclusively of American origin.

My next step was to study the botanical characters of the various kinds of pumpkins and squashes. And for this purpose, during the past two summers, I have raised several varieties in my own little garden, and have also examined all others that I could find in the vicinity—viewing them carefully in the growing state, and dissecting the flowers and young fruit. I have now come to the conclusion that they are divisible into three natural groups. 1. The summer



squashes, or gourd squashes,—having at maturity a hard rind, and a dry, spongy, whitish pulp, with small, thin seeds. It is not necessary to say anything more of this division here. 2d division,—represented by the common field pumpkin, crook-necked squash, &c.,—has large rough leaves, more or less deeply lobed,—a 5-furrowed (sometimes 10-furrowed) long fruit-stem tapering at one end, and very much enlarged next the fruit,—a fleshy fruit, more or less deeply orange colored within, a small circular flat scar at the blossom end, and large thin seeds. 3d division,—represented by the Valparaiso and marrow squashes; large rough leaves, almost entire, or lobed only by hybridization, a short, thick, somewhat oblique fruit stem, which is nearly cylindrical while green and growing, is not deeply 5-furrowed, but is only longitudinally and irregularly wrinkled,—fleshy orange-colored pulp, as in the 2d division,—a small tubercle at the blossom end, consisting of the indurated base of the pistil,—and large plump seeds.

I have left out of account other botanical characters, wishing to present those only that were the most obvious and that any person could easily understand.—Nature thus seem to have stamped an individual character on each of these three groups. But when we come to subdivide them, we do not find it so easy to discover and to point out characters that are constant, and of sufficient importance, botanically considered, to distinguish the several kinds,—nature here seeming to sport in endless varieties, and to allow of very great variations by hybridization. \* \* \* T. W. HARRIS.  
—*New England Farmer*.

**A REMEDY FOR WORMS IN SHEEP.**—It is a well known fact that sheep are sometimes troubled with worms in the head, to the great annoyance, if not damage, to the whole flock. And various kinds of treatment are resorted to, to stop the evil. Even spirits of turpentine and corrosive poisons, enough sometimes to kill the sheep, are thrown into the nasal passages, which serve only to make the worms recede farther into the cells around the brain.

The most effective remedy that I have ever known, is the following:—Take honey, diluted with a little warm water, a sufficient quantity, and inject it into nose freely, with a 4 oz. syringe. The worm will leave his retreat in search of this new article of food; and when once in contact with the honey, becomes una-

ble to return, and slides down the mucus membrane. Then, (say two or three hours after using the honey) give the sheep a little snuff or cayenne, and the effort of sneezing will place the worm beyond the reach of doing harm. Some of the best farmers have tried this remedy long enough to establish its merit.

To prevent this evil, some farmers, in the month of July or August, bore holes in their salt troughs with a two inch auger, and fill them with salt. And around the top of the holes, apply tar frequently, so that when the sheep eats salt, a morsel of tar sticks to the nose, which prevents the insect from depositing its eggs in that region. M. C. S.

REMARKS. —We like the above, because no pernicious remedies are prescribed; and without knowing anything about its efficacy from our own experience, should think it well worthy of trial.—*Ed. New England Farmer*.

#### Construction of Smoke houses, Curing Bacon, &c.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—The enquiries of R. L. N., in the January number of the Farmer and Planter, on the subject of building a smoke house and curing bacon, and your reply to them, has tempted me, in remitting my annual subscription, to let off a little vanity which I arrogate to myself on account of what I suppose to be some success in that department of domestic economy.

Having occasion to build a smoke-house a few years ago, I deviated in some respects from the plan on which they are ordinarily constructed. The house, a frame building, is elevated from the ground about 2½ feet, and two stories high—the first 8 and the second 6 feet high, both floored with plank—the meat is hung in two tiers, strung on sticks carefully made—the first supported by the joists of the second story, and the second by wind-beams framed into the rafters—the roof being steep. The smoke is communicated to it by a furnace made of brick, in which the fire is kindled commencing about four feet outside the wall, to prevent danger from fire, and extending under the floor, to the centre. From thence a chimney is carried through both floors, passing about two and a half feet above the second. Then commences a sort of open brick work, leaving a space between some of my brick for the smoke to pass out on all sides, these may be 2½ inches wide, and 2 feet from the floor the furnace is closed. To prevent sparks

passing up the chimney, bricks are projected into the funnel (say 12 by 9 inches) from opposite sides, about half their length alternately. It operates like an extinguisher used on the furnace of a steam engine, and I regard it as a perfect security against danger from that source. The entrance to the second floor is thro' a trap door, which, when closed, prevents the smoke descending and leaves a clear room and floor for keeping flour, lard, &c., and if the floors are well laid, it is rat-proof—a matter of some consequence in a smoke house. My own is 28 by 18 feet, and ten feet of one end is partitioned off and makes an excellent room for keeping all sorts of groceries. The partition, the floors, and ceiling being tonged and grooved, excludes the smoke entirely.

In smoking meat, the only object is to dry it, care ought to be taken to employ nothing that would impart an unpleasant flavor or smell, and a free circulation of air is necessary to the object. The inside of the second story of my building is not lined, and I find that the air circulates freely enough between the weather boards and shingles, and when the trap door is closed it is so dark as to render a candle necessary. In smoking I use nothing but green hickory, because it imparts no smell or flavor to the meat, and emits but few sparks. The great desideratum in curing bacon is to protect it against the fly and other insects, and after a good deal of experience, I have not found any thing that is a perfect security to hams but bagging them. For this purpose I use northern homespun worth seven and eight cents a yard, three fourths of which will make a bag for an ordinary sized ham. They ought to be carefully sewed on and cover every part of the ham. This done, a sizing of corn meal, about the consistency of that used by country weavers in sizing their yarn for the loom, is prepared, and lime (ashes will do) is stirred into it whilst hot so as to make a thick white wash. Dip the hams one at a time into this, until the covering is saturated—selecting a fair day for the operation, they are exposed to the sun to dry the white-wash. The operation is repeated, and they are again hung up in the house and smoke applied to dry them thoroughly, and there they remain until used. This ought to be done before the fly appears, say the last of February or the first of March. The expenses of this operation will not exceed half a cent to a pound of ham, in the first instance, and if the bags are taken care of they will last an indef-



inite period. I have some made of cotton osnaburgs now that have been in use ten or twelve years. Ten cents worth of lime will serve for a hundred hams, so that, besides the labor, which is inconsiderable, the expenses in the end are merely nominal.

When I began to write, I supposed that one page would hold all I had to say, but the desire to be understood has protracted it to this length, and I know that it will pay the perusal by those who think proper to carry out the plan practically.

Very respectfully,

DAVID JOHNSON

Lockheart's Shoal, Union Dist., Jan., '52.

#### What is Manure?

Any substance which restores the elements of fertility to the soil may be termed a manure, and in the language of Professor Norton, "may be divided into two classes—organic and inorganic; organic, when derived from the remains of organized beings, as plants and animals; inorganic when derived from the mineral kingdom. Vegetable differs much in its action from animal matter. Green vegetables, when deprived of vitality, rapidly decay; their great succulency promotes this when assisted by air, facilitated no doubt by the azotized matters of the sap, which impart the putrid tendency, reducing the fibrous organism to carbonic acid, water and ammonia; at the same time liberating its earthy and saline ingredients. Dry vegetables decay slowly—the sap being dried up is less inclined to putrefy; but how soon it commences when moistened or mixed with animal matters, as when straw is employed as litter! Peat is a vegetable manure in which decomposition is checked, not only by antiseptic matters, but chiefly by excessive moisture, and the consequent exclusion of air. Yet, when dried and mixed with animal manures or caustic lime, how speedily it moulders down! The principal supply of vegetables for manure is derived from the leaves and stems of grain crops, grasses, the collection of weeds, the consumption of green crops, and, in some cases, of the seeds of plants. Seeds of plants are not directly used as manures, being too valuable as an article of food. Seeds contain the richest elements of fertilization—the phosphates and nitrogenous products; hence the rich manure obtained from cattle fed on oilcake or Linseed grain. The refuse of some seeds is used for manure, as bran, rape-cake, malt-dust, &c." Green vegetables are some-

times used as a cheap method of fertilizing the soil, either upon which they grow, or by removing them to another field. In this country, the principle crop used for manure is clover. The waste of substance which would form valuable manure, if saved and composted, upon many farms, and by saving economical farmers, too, would make them open their eyes with astonishment if they could only see the truth. We have seen many a careful, yea, stingy farmer, who has all his lifetime snuffed the tainted air of the privy, which has diffused its fertilizing gases abroad upon the air, instead of applying its substance as a manure upon his growing crops.

How many of you, my readers, at this moment are complaining of short crops, and yet have piles of stable manure lying exposed to the bleaching effects of winter rain, or under the evaporating power of a scorching sun? How many of you have a barrel of ground plaster standing in your stable, with which you daily sprinkle the floor, and thus absorb the ammonia which is so offensive, and would otherwise escape and be lost?—that old greasy coat, hat and boots, which I saw last week disfiguring the landscape near your house, where they have dangled as a scare-crow ever since last spring, would make more corn than they saved, if you had used them as a manure. For the same purpose, we beg of you to save the blood and bristles of your butchering—it is a valuable manure.

Finally, bear in mind that almost every organic substance is capable of being converted into manure, and increasing the productions of the earth for the benefit of the whole human family.—*Plow.*

#### To Guard Against Drouth.

We hope, now that the sufferings of one of the worst drouths that ever prevailed over the greater part of the United States, is fresh in the memory of the people, they may be induced to take such measures as will hereafter greatly mitigate, if not wholly guard against it.

1st. *To ensure the growth of a crop during a drouth*, especially corn and roots, subsoil as deep as possible. By so doing, the roots will penetrate so deep as to be out of the reach of drouth; and thus your crop will obtain food and moisture, while others, not subsoiled, will be dry and starving. We noticed, the past season, that wherever the ground for corn was prepared by subsoiling, it produced, at least, twice as much as where not subsoiled.

2. *To ensure plenty of forage for stock during a drouth*, always plant a few acres of corn to be cut up for soiling as the pastures fail. If it should not happen to be wanted for this purpose, the corn can be left to ripen, or be cut for winter fodder, so nothing will be lost by it, in case there should be rain enough to make a superabundance of pasture. It is much better to sow corn in drills than broadcast, for soiling. When broadcast, the air does not circulate well among it, and the stalks are so thick that they choke each other in their growth, and consequently become stunted; instead of the deep sea-green color, so grateful to look at, it assumes the pale, sickly yellow.—In drills ten to twelve inches apart, the air circulates well throughout the rows, and it grows vigorously the whole season.

A drilling machine is the best implement we know of, to sow corn for soiling, and they are so arranged as to drop rows any distance apart required, from three inches to five feet. If sown broadcast, and then plowed in lightly, like wheat, with a three share plow—the shares set about a foot apart—it will come up pretty regularly in drills. Such a plow costs only \$6.50; and one man and a horse will easily cover three to five acres a day with it.—*Id.*

#### Compost Heaps, &c.

I have promised myself to help a little in filling up your very valuable columns, but time pressing I shall have to make short of a long story: I am now making a compost heap of branch mud, cotton seed, and salt, which I design for corn. My preparation will be 10 loads branch mud, 1 load of cotton seed, and one bushel of salt to every 100 bushels of compost. I shall plant my corn 4½ feet each way, one stalk in a hill. The land is exceedingly poor, and on a hill side—I do not believe it would produce above three bushels per acre apart from manure. I shall put about 100 bushels per acre. What will be the result, I am unable to say, but you shall hear when it has been tested.

I have found equalizing soils very profitable, hauling the dirt out of ponds and putting them on sand ridges, and hauling sand on the stiff bottoms very good. Now I do not mean to go to the bald sand-hills for sand, but the scrapings of fence corners and the hills, I haul them to the bottoms. If I have to haul a fourth of a mile, I would do it and think it labor well spent. Last spring I planted one of those hard stiff bottom, (I write for plain practical farmers to read), through which ran a ditch on the one side, I hauled in the dirt from fence corners, just enough to cover the corn, say a handful to the hill, and if the bud worms destroyed one hill, I have no recollection of it. On the opposite side of the



ditch the corn was covered without this fence corner dirt, and if there was one hill in 20 saved it was as much. After the worms destroyed all, I put one plow to opening the furrows, and a horse and cart to hauling dirt, and this operation proved as successful as the former. It so fully convinced me that I shall in future haul enough of dirt from the hills to cover the corn in the bottoms. Yours, &c., A. N. STUCKEY.

#### Enquiry.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I see in your January number for 1852, a diagram of an Iron Horse Power, I suppose for two horses. What is the price of it? of a four horse power?—also, the difference in the performance of the two? Can our mechanics set them up so as to work properly, or should we have to get one from the North to put them in operation?

I have some land on which cotton is subject to rust. Will you, or some of your correspondents, state the cause, and inform me what will prevent it? The land lies rather low and flat, nearly what might be called flat-woods land. The principal growth, post oak, black jack, hickory and pine, with a light sandy surface soil—the subsoil, yellow sand and clay—adhesive as wax. Any information on the above subjects will be thankfully received, by your friend, ABBEVILLE.

REMARKS.—On the receipt, from our friend "Abbeville," of the above enquiries respecting the Iron horse-power, we wrote on to the proper source for an answer to them, but up to this time have received no reply. We have no doubt, however, that any good mechanic may set them properly to work. In addition to the description accompanying the plate, we will give the following from the catalogue of E. Whitman jr. & Co., of Baltimore who also have them for sale:

THE BOGARDUS HORSE POWER.—While it is compact and light, is all of iron, and of course does not injure by exposure to the weather. It has but few points that require oil, and the double gearing gives a compensating feature to it, which relieves in a great measure from the great friction common to all horse powers.—Another excellent quality it has, viz: that the power from it can be applied to any of the various demands of the farmer, miller, mechanic, miner, &c., without any expense but a pulley. Saw mills of a light construction have been appended to a two horse power, capable of sawing 100 feet of boards per hour. These horse powers are made of various sizes, and cost from \$90 to \$250.

Will some of our readers reply to the enquiry respecting rust on Cotton? We are not experimentally well posted up on the cause and prevention of the rust. We have supposed it was the work of an insect, which is more prevalent on some lands, even spots in the same field, than on others.

Since writing the above, we find in the South-

ern Cultivator of 1848, Vol. 6, an excellent article, from a correspondent of that paper, Dr. N. T. Sorsby, on the subject of rust in cotton, which goes to sustain our belief that the rust, at least one form of it, is the effect of insects.—We take pleasure in republishing this article, and should be pleased to hear from any of our correspondents on this subject.

"MR. EDITOR:—Having read an article of inquiry on "Rust in cotton," in the August number of the Southern Cultivator, by your correspondent, "No Humbug," and your ingenious "remarks" in explanation of the cause of the disease, I take pleasure in sending you a description of the malady.

The *Plant Mite* (or red spider) *Acarius telarius*, (LINN.) causes the rust on cotton, and does serious injury to many plants, during the warm, dry weather of summer.

The insect is scarcely visible to the naked eye. When seen with a microscope, it has a pale, oval, yellowish body, with a brown or reddish back, eight legs, a short rostrum, and is from one to three lines in length. It is an active worm, and differs much from the *Plant Louse* or *Aphis*, which are frequently seen on the same leaf.

Plant mites collect in families on the under surface of leaves of plants, and protected by their webs, live by sucking the sap of the leaves with their rostrums, destroying their functions, and causing them to acquire a brownish red, rusty appearance, to contract and fall off.

They commence their ravages in June or July, and continue until frost. They are generally first observed on stalks around stumps and trees, at or near the same place every year, and spread rapidly in irregular circles, which, uniting, extend over a great surface in a short time, sometimes stripping the stalks of every form and leaf. The bolls already made, mature and open early, but the wool is hard to pick, and of an inferior quality.

The malady is called the "*Red Rust*," to distinguish it from "*Spotted Rust*," caused by an excess of lime in the lime land, corroding the roots of the cotton plant, and causing the leaves to become black spotted and drop.

The red rust was first noticed in sandy land, nine or ten years ago, but the spotted rust has existed ever since we came to this country in 1829, and both have prevailed annually since, much worse dry than wet summers. How long the red rust will prevail, I cannot say, but the spotted rust will continue as long as lime

land is cultivated in cotton. Both are great scourges, and do much injury to the cotton crop every year. Large and luxuriant cotton suffers less from the effects of these disasters than small and sorry cotton.

Frequent rains during summer, by forcing the growth of the plant on rich land, check their ravages temporarily.

I am sorry to say, I know not how to destroy the Plant Mite in the cotton field, without destroying the plant, but the remedies recommended are simple and of easy application, viz: sprinkle and water the plants with strong lime water, or an infusion of tobacco, or fumigate them with tobacco smoke or the fumes of burnt sulphur, just before sunset, of a still, damp evening, the moment they are discovered.

As the insects hibernate on the stalks, stumps and trees in the field, wherever they have existed, these should be burned in the winter, and the fields attacked by them once should be rested, or cultivated in corn or small grain for a year or two, else they will be sure to appear again next year, for fields that have been cultivated in cotton, without a rotation, have been attacked by them several years in succession.

The remedy for the spotted rust is to apply sufficient vegetable matter to the soil for the lime present to act on and feed to the plant.

Yours &c., N. T. SORSBY, M. D.  
Havana, Ala., Aug. 1848.

VINEGAR FROM BEETS.—Good vinegar is an almost indispensable article in every family, many of which purchase it at a considerable annual expense; while some use but a very indifferent article; and others, for want of a little knowledge and less industry, go without. It is an easy matter, however, to be at all times supplied with good vinegar, and that too, without much expense. The juice of one bushel of sugar beets, worth twenty-five cents, and which any farmer can raise without cost, will make from five to six gallons of vinegar, equal to the best made of wine or cider. Grate the beets, having first washed them, and express the juice in a cheese-press, or in many other ways which a little ingenuity can suggest, and put the liquor into an empty barrel; cover the bung hole with gauze and set it in the sun, and in 15 or 20 days it will be ready for use.—*Farmer & Mechanic*.

The gun cannot be polished except by friction, nor man perfected but by adversity.



SHORTHORN HEIFER, PRINCESS.



A Shorthorn Heifer.

We introduce this cut to the notice of our readers, for the purpose of showing them one of the most perfect models of a yearling shorthorn, which has ever fallen under our observation. We hope our readers will examine this cut critically, and as a study; and compare the figure with the best living specimens of cattle

before them, and see how near they approach to it in their American shorthorns. Bulls from this family should therefore be sought for with great avidity.

The cut is a faithful portrait of Princess 3d., imported by Mr. A. Stevens. She is of the celebrated Princess tribe of cattle, bred by Mr. John Stevenson, of Durham, England. This tribe is highly cel-

ebrated, not only for fine points, but high quality, quick growth, and great dairy properties. Their hair is very soft and furry, and nothing can excell their handling.

A few only of these choice animals have been imported, and are to be found in the hands of Col. Sheerwood, Mr. Stevens, and L. F. Allen.—*The Plow.*

#### Corn, Turkeys, Potatoes, &c.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I have seen published in your paper, the Farmer and Planter, a sketch of the history of Indian Corn. I have no doubt but Indian Corn is truly American origin, for when first found it was among the American Indians, and for that reason was called *Indian Corn*, which name it bears to the present day.

America can also boast of the Turkey,—a bird so truly valuable, that Dr. Franklin observed it would have been a much fitter emblem on the American colors, than the white-headed eagle—a bird living on the labors of others, and more suited to represent an imperial, despotic government, than the Republic of America.

The Irish potato was once a garden root. In 1619 its market price in England was one shilling per pound. It was introduced from America by the colonists sent out by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1586. The potato should have been called the *American*, and not the Irish potato. It was originally used as a dainty, and made into pies with sugar and spice. It was not until two hundred

years later that it became a field crop—and it is now the article of food that, in lieu of bread, stands between millions of Queen Victoria's subjects and famine.

Sassafras was found, and only grows in America; the roots, of which are forbidden to be carried to Europe by placing on them so heavy a duty that they are excluded. If they could be carried to the old countries, they would be used for tea, and in a great measure supercede the use of other teas, which those who raise and trade in teas, wish to avoid.

These four articles are American production and growth, and you might take Indian corn meal, well prepared, and bake it on a johnycake board near a good fire until fairly done and somewhat brown, with a turkey and Irish potatoes well cooked, and some well prepared sassafras tea (sweetened with maple sugar—Eds.), and you could have quite an agreeable meal from the articles named, all truly American.

With sentiments of esteem, I remain yours, &c. J. M. S.

#### Plain Talk to Farmers and Others.

It will readily be admitted that neither talking or writing will add one ear of corn to the crib, or stalk of grain to the stack, or put another pig into the pen; but inasmuch as these are woefully wanting for the support of a large portion of the population of our section of country, it is certainly a fair time to review the cause or causes that led to this state of things, and, if possible, devise a remedy or preventive for the recurrence of the evil that necessarily grows out of a scarcity of the necessities of life, and even comforts.

It is an undeniable fact during the planting season gone by the kinds and quantity of bread stuffs put into cultivation were few and small. A moderate corn crop was put into the ground, a usual one of the sweet potato, such an



essential for bread; a quantity of the Irish potato sufficient to give a few messes, and with the exception of a small portion of the South that produces wheat, the list ends—and the rye and oat fields, like your Payne's "point no point"—when you got to them they were "away there."

The late rise in the great staple of the South had brought about another strain for a full crop, and in the strain it was found necessary to "suspend" the operations of common sense. It can be recollected by many now living, that when in the first stage of the cotton prosperity, with other similar effects that followed the rapid accumulation of wealth among planters, a *mental fungus* was found to have started up in a night, viz: that it was a wise economy and adding much to the profits of cotton cultivation to let others raise our bread and meat, with hay and oats for our animals; and if more than usual meal was wanting, the country was pressed into service from the Androscoggin of the north, to the great west, &c. A pickle or beet, notwithstanding we had a soil and climate superior for their production, it was believed wise economy to bring a thousand miles; and this theory was followed up for many years systematically, and to no small extent to the present day, over the present cotton producing region of country. But the consequence was observed as uniformly to follow with those who adopted the course—that *plenty*, so essential to human comfort, was never found among them, nor is it to this day. A wretched parsimony, as regards human comfort, seem to grow out of it, and the laborer, both man and beast, is made to feel its operation. The manufacturer of padlocks alone was benefitted, for every depository of eatable matter became a safety chest. If perchance you stopped at the house of a large planter, the hour of feeding was readily learned by the rattling of keys, and "Tom" was no longer entrusted to feed. The overseer sallied forth with a bunch of keys in his hand, numerous enough for a county jail, to see the corn and fodder put into the trough. The three pound a week, and peck of corn system sprung up, and if the slave got any vegetable diet, so essential to common health and comfort, he was compelled, by the hours of rest, or those that are claimed by religious duties, to obtain it. It is not a little strange, but certain, that with those who are accumulating rapidly a singular regard for the dollar

is certain to take root, and that which has been obtained by parting with the dear people is viewed with prodigious interest—hence much caution in giving it out; whereas with the same individual a degree of liberality will be seen when distributing (to those who labor to provide) the means of subsistence and comfort when produced by "home labor," for "*it has cost no money.*"

That singular disposition to carry into the production of a single staple almost the whole disposable labor of a country seems peculiar to the cotton growing region and the sugar planting portion.—The western and northern states have staples on which they go to a large extent, but we cannot find a single one whose agricultural labor and production are not diversified. The statistics of Ohio ought to be a lesson to us, and the agricultural prosperity of the farming community a still greater one. If a farmer of that State sends his pork to market, we find him sending a dozen different productions along with it, if it is only broom corn or mustard seed—and we, to our shame, find his Irish potatoes, an article for which our climate and soil excels, filling up the list of our diet—his rye and oats are also found necessary for the support of our animals, although our country excels in that production.—*Alabama Planter.*

**TO FATTEN POULTRY.**—Ladies are all fond of fat pullets, ducks and turkeys, but do not always succeed well in their efforts in feeding them fat. Let me tell you. Shut them up in the dark—give them a little light two or three times a day, long enough to fill themselves with food, and then shut them up quite dark. Dr. Chambes, in his work on corpulency, says:—Defective light is found to add much to the fattening powers of moderate diet. E. L. A. was employed in a brewery, and, though strictly temperate, found his bulk coming so great as to give him much alarm. He obtained a situation as clerk in the same establishment, and found the employment above ground cause a rapid reduction. He has since become a collecting clerk, and has diminished still more.—*Ex.*

**FLANNEL CAKES.**—To a pint of flour, three tablespoonfuls of meal, a teaspoon of salt, add buttermilk enough to mix it to the consistency of cake batter; put in one tablespoonful of lard, and an egg.—The last thing, just before baking, beat in a teaspoonful of soda, *it'll very light*—bake quick.—*Id.*

**EFFECTS OF IRRIGATION.**—Water, applied to the soil by irrigation, gives many other things besides humidity; it manures, consolidates, deepens the staple, or surface mould, and guards against cold—effects as obvious in a northern, as in a southern climate.

#### EDITORS' TABLE.

**AGENT FOR THE FARMER AND PLANTER.**—We have recently appointed Mr. H. P. DOUTT, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, our agent for procuring subscribers to the FARMER AND PLANTER, in Alabama, and other States, in which he may travel. He is authorized to make collections and to give receipts for the same.

SEABORN & GILMAN.

#### Acknowledgments.

We return our thanks to our Representative in Congress, Hon. J. L. Orr, for the "Report of the Commissioners of Patents for 1850-'51," together with other public documents. Also, for a paper of Chillian Clover seed from the Patent Office. We hope to succeed better with these, than we have with the few parcels heretofore received from the same source—most of which having proved worthless, from age, we presume, and consequent loss of vitality, they failed to germinate.

We are also indebted to the Hon. R. F. Stockton, for a copy of his speech on Non-intervention.

We would refer our readers to an article to be found on page 36. It appeared some time since in the Unionville Journal, but escaped our notice, being absent, probably, at the time the paper came out. A friend has recently called our attention to it. This places us under renewed obligations for the many favors done us by the writer.

Will our exchanges South do us the favor to copy?—especially our political exchanges, which are read by many who take no agricultural work.

**THE MAILS.**—Yes, *the mails*. But why need we complain when every other publisher is complaining without effect. Our subscribers are frequently writing us that such and such papers have not come to hand, &c. It is well we have printed a large extra number of copies, so as to enable us to supply the missing numbers, for after one has been stolen, the second is usually allowed to pass. We know the papers are regularly put up and placed in our post office, from which they are promptly sent. We don't know who to suspect. We can't believe the fault lies with the post masters at the offices to which the papers are directed. Such are generally our friends, and take pleasure, we believe, in distributing according to direction. But notwithstanding our friends complain, and once in a while the loss of a subscriber, and having to send a large number of extra copies—yet it affords us some consolation to know that our paper is worth stealing, by such as desire to read it, but are too parsimonious to subscribe and pay for it.



## Our Exchanges.

To our excellent list of exchanges for the present year, heretofore given, we with pleasure add:

**THE INDIANA FARMER**—A semi-monthly of sixteen pages—"devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture," &c., D. P. Holloway and W. T. Dennis editors. Published at Richmond, Indiana, at \$1 per annum.

**THE OHIO CULTIVATOR**—This is also a large octavo, semi-monthly, of sixteen pages. "Devoted to agriculture, horticulture, domestic and rural economy. M. B. Bateham editor and proprietor—S. D. Harris associate editor. Published at Columbus, O., at one dollar to single subscribers, less to clubs. We return compliments to the editors.

**THE WORKING FARMER**—No. 1, of Vol. IV, of this excellent paper has been received. To our friends who have made enquiry about this work since our last notice of it, we take pleasure in stating that it is edited by Prof. J. J. Mapes, and published on the first of each month by F. McCready, No. 25, Cliff St., New York, at \$1 per annum. Vol. 1 may be had at 50 cents, 2 and 3 at the subscription price. It is a royal quarto of 24 pages of well selected and original matter by its very able editor.

We have been pleased, also, to receive, and place on our exchange list, the following:

**THE SOUTHERN CULTIVATOR**—This is an old friend in a new and improved dress that salutes us—and to which we have, in times past, acknowledged our devotions. We embraced it with right good will and placed it in the choice list of our exchanges. Most of our readers know the character of the Southern Cultivator, we presume, that it is a well conducted paper, "devoted to the interests of Southern Agriculture, and designed to the improvement of both the soil and the mind." To both of which most laudable and praiseworthy objects it has already largely contributed. It is now in its IX volume.

**UNION ARTIST**—We have received the first four numbers of this work, it is "devoted to agriculture, horticulture and mechanics." It will be found quite interesting and instructive to all. It is a neat octavo of 48 pages, stitched and covered, with emblematic outside title page, &c.—Edited by R. D. Hartshorn, and published monthly in Pittsburg, Pa., at one dollar per annum to single subscribers with a deduction to clubs.

**FARMER AND DAIRYMAN**—The first No. of Vol. I, of this work has been received—a promising octavo of sixteen pages—its motto, "Agriculture is the foundation of National prosperity," very true. Edited by R. M. Walker, and N. E. French, and published semi-monthly, by G. B. Miller, proprietor, at Jefferson Ohio. One dollar a year.

**THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER**—Devoted to agriculture, horticulture, mechanics, and rural and domestic economy. A neat illustrated octavo, of 32 pages—published at Boston by R.

B. Fitts & Co., at \$1 per annum. This work is got up with much taste, and promises to be a valuable acquisition to farmers and mechanics.

**THE AMERICAN VETERINARY JOURNAL**—"Devoted to the diffusion of veterinary knowledge"—a monthly journal of 32 pages—Published in Boston, and Edited by Geo. H. Dadd, M. D., & Co. "It is the province of humanity to encourage a branch of knowledge that contemplates the amelioration of sick animals, and proposes a rational, scientific medication founded on the laws of their organization, instead of the murderous system of surgery which has been the disgrace of our country." Through the politeness of the editor we are indebted for No. 7, of Vol. I, of this excellent work, which should be in the hands of every farmer who possesses a horse, cow or sheep. "Dr. Dadd is favorably known as author of the American Reformed Cattle Doctor." We would be pleased to receive the back numbers of the Journal.

We believe this ends our list up to the time of our paper going to press, of agricultural exchanges. Surely our subscribers, if they will look back over the list occupying a part of three numbers of our paper, will be gratified to know that we have such an *extensive* and *rich* field in which we are permitted to cater for their especial benefit.

It is most cheering to know what a rapid increase of agricultural papers we have had, especially in the Eastern, Northern and Middle States, within the last year. But at the same time it is mortifying to our Southern pride to know that great as the increase has been in other States, they are *all* better sustained than the single one in our own. Well, if the people so will it, so mote it be.

In addition to our Agricultural papers, we are indebted to the politeness of the editors of several political papers, recently received in exchange. Among others "*The Live Giraffe*,"—a strange name, surely, for one of the most psey and entertaining little sheets we are acquainted with. Published at Raleigh, N. C., and edited by W. Whitaker. We tender our acknowledgements for his favorable notice of the Farmer and Planter.

**STOP MY PAPER**—It is provokingly strange that, although before the close of our last volume we gave notice to our subscribers if they did not wish to continue their paper, that they should notify us before the first No. of the new volume was sent out, and that, if they did not so notify us, we should consider them subscribers for volume three, and send it accordingly, we are receiving, even up to this date, after issuing the second number, notices to discontinue. Can any man bring himself to believe that such a course, is fair—is doing as he would be done by? We think not. And what makes the matter worse with some is, they have even forgotten to pay for their last years subscription. It is customary for subscribers to all papers to pay up all arrearages before they discontinue. We desire no man to take our paper, however, who does not want it, for in doing so we consider

they are receiving as much favor from us as we are from them—much more if they never pay.

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## MASONIC NOTICE.

THE next Regular Communication of PENDLETON LODGE, No. 34, A. F. M., will be held on Monday evening, 5th of April. By order of the W. M. W. H. D. GAILLARD, Secretary.

## ANDRE LEROY,

Nurseryman, at Angiers, France.

**RETURNS** his thanks for past favors, and begs leave to inform his friends and the public in general, that his catalogue for 1851 is now ready, and will be had on application to his agent, Mr. E. BOSSANGE, 133 Pearl street, New York. He offers for sale a large collection of the finest Fruit, Forest and Ornamental TREES of all kinds, SHRUBS, ROSES, &c. The superior quality of his trees is already well known in the United States, and the experience he has in packing up Trees to be sent abroad, gives him a noted advantage over all other Nurserymen. Orders had better be sent in early, as although his Nursery is the largest in France, the number of some new kinds of trees are limited, and some of the last orders sent last year, could not all be executed. The terms, prices, charges and all desirable information will be found in his catalogue. The Trees will be shipped to the care of his agent, who will attend to the receiving and forwarding. For further particulars, and for the catalogue, apply to E. BOSSANGE, 133 Pearl street, N. York, Agent. Feb., 1852. 2-p.

All agricultural papers will insert the above three times, and send the bill and a copy of each paper to E. BOSSANGE.



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A USEFUL REFERENCE BOOK JUST PUBLISHED,  
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Subscribers, to the **FARMER AND PLANTER** enclosing a stamp, by mail, will be furnished with a copy gratis. Address

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**H**AVE now on hand, and will be receiving daily through the season, *New Goods*, direct from the European manufactures, and *cash Auctions, rich, fashionable, fancy Silk Millinery Goods*. Our stock of *Rich Ribbons*, comprises every variety of the latest and most beautiful designs imported.

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January, 1852.

3--e.

**COTTON--CHEMICAL COMPOUND  
 MANURE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT  
 OF CROP AND LAND.**

**TO THE PLANTERS AND AGRICULTURISTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA.**

**T**HE undersigned has been long satisfied that his "Chemical Salts" were the best, most durable and cheapest manure for the growth of Cotton, now offered to the public. He was equally aware also, that such enterpri-

ses are looked upon with doubt and suspicion—the article too frequently denounced as an imposition—and the originators as impostors. In the importance which he has always attached to his Salts as a Cotton manure, the undersigned has been sustained by the most distinguished, as also, by the most accomplished practical Chemists of the country, who have frequently enquired why he did not press his "Salts" among the cotton planters of the South. This the undersigned has not done for two reasons—first, because his enterprise was fully and successfully sustained at home, where his character and integrity was well known; and secondly, because he has determined that his "Compounds" should have a fair trial by some one who had the faith to make an unsolicited experiment. This has been done by an entire stranger to the undersigned, and who has voluntarily handed him the letter containing the extracts which follow; and for his faith, enterprise and generous confidence, the undersigned takes this method of publicly tendering to that gentleman his unaffected thanks and gratitude. In conclusion, he would barely remark that if Mr. Chisolm had used the salts in the hill with the corn, and then weighed or measured the product, he would have had a most satisfactory result. These salts do not show their value in the stalk of the corn, but in the ear.

With the following extracts from the letter of Robert Chisolm, esq., of Beaufort, he quietly submits his claims to public patronage, to those who think that there may be progress and enterprise in agriculture as well as in other branches of the industry of life.

Price of the "Renovator," \$3 per barrel; Biphosphates, \$4 per bbl.; Potash and Plaster, \$2.50 per bbl. Plaster, \$1.25 per bbl. ground.

Freight from 25 to 40 cents per barrel; to Charleston or Savannah. Terms, under \$50, four months; over \$100, six months, for acceptances.

The expenses of transportation and putting on the ground is less than hauling out barn-yard manure, if the cost of teams and hands is considered. Pamphlets of explanations will be given to those who desire and write to the undersigned.

**JOHN KETTLEWELL.**

Office at the Wholesale Drug store of Ober & McConkey, corner of Lombard and Hanover streets. Factory, Federal Hill, Baltimore.

Extracts from the letter of Robert Chisolm, esq., of Beaufort, S. C., to J. Kettlewell, late Kettlewell & Davison, in reference to his Chemical Salts.

(Copy.)

NEAR BEAUFORT, January 10, 1852.

Dear Sir:—I suppose that you would be glad to hear from me the results of my trials with your Renovator the past year, and I am happy to say to you that I have been quite pleased. As the past summer also, was, I thought, quite too dry to give your Renovator a fair chance, I took no account of my experiments by weight or measure as I should have done, had I thought differently. My first experiment was upon the yam variety of the sweet potato, the tubers for seed, the land was the best for this enacting crop that I have, (and very good) rested unpastured one year after cotton manured. Two furrows of Davis' horse plow were run, making what we call a "list." Upon six of these rows 150 feet long, the Renovator was spread at the rate of 3 barrels per acre without any other manure, and upon the rest of the field (12 acres) in this crop, compost, made in my stable and stable lot, was spread at the rate of 40 loads, half drawn by 2 oxen and half by four oxen about a quarter of a mile, per acre of 300 by 150 feet; seed, preparation, cultivation and everything were exactly the same, and when the potatoes were dug, five of the rows dressed with the Renovator yielded rather more than one of these rows and five rows dressed with the compost, just by the side—three barrels may appear a large dressing, but forty

ox-cart loads of good compost are not either a light or cheap application. Upon corn, I could not see any difference between the crop dressed with one barrel per acre and that manured with 8 ox cart loads of poor cow-pen compost. On Cotton, I took one line 105 feet wide by 420 long through a field of poor, cold, stiff clay soil manured at the rate of 20 ox cart loads of fair compost per acre, hauled a very short distance; the first 105 feet square was dressed with  $\frac{1}{2}$  barrel of the Renovator, the next quarter acre had no manure, the third had another half barrel Renovator, and the fourth had also nothing. One row 5 X 105 was sown with Shinney peas. The result is that the 2 quarter acres, manured with the Renovator have the cotton so much better grown, and better fruited than even the lands on both sides manured with the 20 loads of compost that the difference is very apparent even to-day, though the cotton has been killed 2 months. I tried it on my other cotton plantation which is on fresh water (this one being near the ocean), and with similar results, viz: So little benefit to Corn that my Overseer told me that you had cheated me by selling me for manure what was worthless; but he afterwards told me that the application to cotton, though manured  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre to one barrel of the Renovator was very decidedly beneficial when compared with surrounding land which was freshly cleared but unmanured. I saw in the summer some cotton manured with Guano at the rate of 200 lbs. to the acre and thought it decidedly a failure, but the planter informed me lately that at the end of the season it had improved very much.

My present Overseer spent a part of the summer near another planter who tried Guano pretty largely, and he does not report at all favorably of it. I showed my cotton experiment to him, and he fully agrees with me in its very marked benefit.

The one row of peas did nothing, most probably owing to the too dry season, as the same was the case in other very rich lands. I think that the past season was too dry for almost any manure, especially a concentrated one, to have its full effect; but the renovator certainly proved highly satisfactory on Cotton and Potatoes. Corn is, with us, almost too quick growing a crop, to receive as much benefit from its application, as the other crops mentioned—which grow until killed by frost in November or December.

I am so much pleased with the results of my experiments, that I intend to use as much of the Renovator as prudence will justify me in buying.



What is your price per ton per 100 to 200 bbls?

[Signed] **ROBERT CHISOLM.**

Feb. 4, 1852.

2-r.

## Land for Sale in Pickens District.

 THE Subscriber offers for Sale  the Tract of Land on which he now resides, lying in the fork of Seneca and Tugaloo rivers, on the main road from Pendleton to Carnsville, and twelve miles from the former place, containing nine hundred (900) acres; about one hundred (100) of which is Beaverdam Bottom. The place has on it a large and comfortable Dwelling House, a good Kitchen, and all other necessary out buildings. The site is a beautiful one, the water fine, and the place as healthy as any in the District. To a purchaser the crop now growing on the place will be sold, if desired, on the most favorable terms.

**I. G. GAMBRELL.**

Pendleton, S. C., Aug. 13, 1851.

## GRASS SEED FOR SALE.

**W**E have some HERDS GRASS, ORCHARD GRASS, AND CLOVER seed which, by request, have been ordered for the accommodation of our subscribers. Apply at this office.